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OFFICE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

NOV 10 1949

Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR POLICY COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Albanian Operation - Letter for Abas Ermeni
Regarding VALUABLE Teams

1. We reproduce below the contents of a letter addressed to Halil Haci, apparently for forwarding to Abas Ermeni. The writer is unknown, since the letter is signed only by a cryptonym. However, it has been ascertained that the letter was originally posted at Corfu. No date for the letter, or its posting, is available. It appears to refer to the two intelligence groups mentioned in our SO DB-20024.

2. We have taken the liberty of supplying, as footnotes, possible interpretations of coded words and phrases appearing in the letter.

"To: Halil MATSI

"For: SABAS⁽¹⁾, IRO, Cinecita, Rome.

"When I arrived I sent you an encoded letter. Everything that I explained to you the night of our last dinner unfortunately came true. The death of GEROS⁽²⁾, which was announced to me during the trip, and the pessimistic report about the two brothers⁽³⁾ who set out are, in fact, bitter news for both sides⁽⁴⁾, and in particular for our friends⁽⁵⁾ who consider the death of GEROS an irreparable loss.

"On the morning of 6 October 1949 the radio station of Tirana could not be heard (sic), but I did succeed in hearing these words: 'SANI ABDIL.....RAMIZ MALAI.....LEPENITSAPEOPLE'S SECURITY.....B(alli) K(ombetar)..... and a few unfamiliar names..... However, every other activity like this will meet with its proper punishment.'

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"No contact was possible with the brothers. The weather is very bad, and it does not allow the work to be done. Our friends' home here is so big and so full of furniture that you would be impressed. Willingly or not, they have decided to go ahead with the wedding⁽⁶⁾. The friend who arrived the other night was very upset about you, while PASHA, with whom you traveled to St. Michael⁽⁷⁾, and the others were not happy. Comrade ZYNE who approached us at last Sunday's dinner, and with whom I passed through St. Michael the night before departure, is on our side.

"As to replacing GEROB, I recommend calmness and good sense. Everything hangs by a thread. Do everything you can so that it will not break, because something wicked has started at the house of our friends. I am awaiting news from you. Send your letters directly to the house where I am staying.

(Sgn) DREKA⁽⁸⁾

"P.S. The copy of the two brothers' letter⁽⁹⁾, which was sent to you by SYRI does not represent the truth. The translation⁽¹⁰⁾ is very poor, because the letter was not very well written. The contents are very pessimistic, and unfortunately it has been translated, as you know. The friends, however, are right.

"At the last moment we succeeded in getting⁽¹¹⁾ news from the two brothers that they had arrived safely. One of the two left to pass the winter at the place with the good climate⁽¹²⁾ that was recommended to him by the doctors⁽¹³⁾. The doctor recommended to one of the brothers 02⁽¹⁴⁾ grams of quinine and to the second brother 06⁽¹⁵⁾ grams."

- (1) Believed to be Abas Ermeni.
- (2) Probably Midhat Frasherli.
- (3) "Two brothers" may refer to the radio operators who went into Albania.
- (4) "Both sides" probably refers to the Liberation Committee and the British.
- (5) "Friends" refers to the British.

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- (6) "Wedding" may mean entering the anti-Hoxha movement, or may refer to continuing the operation.
- (7) "St. Michael" is possibly a city in Italy.
- (8) "DREKA" is a cryptonym; the word in Albanian means lunch.
- (9) Must mean a copy of the message sent by the radio operators in Albania.
- (10) Possibly means badly encoded.
- (11) That is, they made radio contact.
- (12) "Good Climate" is probably a code-name for the area of operations.
- (13) "Doctors" are apparently the chiefs of the mission or of the whole plan.
- (14) "O2" is possibly a place designation.
- (15) "O6" possibly also refers to a location.

3. None of the above information has been passed to any of your representatives in the field.

[]
Assistant Director
Special Operations

SO DB-20196

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